

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed November 15, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 1, 11, and 17 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amini, et al. in view of Trantanella. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 17 recite in general the ability to control coupling of a device to a bus wherein devices not coupled to the bus do not provide a load on the bus. By contrast, the Amini, et al. and Trantanella patents both provide continuous connection of their respective devices and interface units to a common bus. Thus, neither the Amini, et al. patent nor the Trantanella patent are able to prevent their devices from providing a load on the bus as required in the claimed invention. Support for the above recitation can be found at page 3, lines 27-32, of Applicant's specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-20 are patentably distinct from the proposed Amini, et al. - Trantanella combination.

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 17-19 stand rejected under 25 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Garnett, et al. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 17 recite in general the ability to control coupling of a device to a bus wherein devices not coupled to the bus do not provide a load on the bus. By contrast, the Garnett, et al. patent does not provide any disclosure of an ability to prevent its devices from providing a load on the bus as required in the claimed invention. Support for the above recitation can be found at page 3, lines 27-32, of Applicant's specification. Therefore, Applicant

respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 17-19 are not anticipated by the Garnett, et al. patent.

Claims 3, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garnett, et al. in view of PCI Local Bus Specification. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 17 from which Claims 3, 16, and 20 depend have been shown above to be patentably distinct from the Garnett, et al. patent. Moreover, the PCI Local Bus Specification does not include any additional material combinable with the Garnett, et al. patent that would be material to patentability of the claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3, 16, and 20 are patentably distinct from the proposed Garnett, et al. - PCI Local Bus Specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Fish', is written over the typed name.

Charles S. Fish

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